

April 25, 1991

LB 91, 409, 409A

propose to sign and do sign LB 409 and LB 409A. Mr. Clerk, do you have an amendment to the committee amendment?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hefner would move to amend the committee amendments, page 1455 of the Journal. (See AM1085.)

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I would like to withdraw that amendment at this time.

SPEAKER BAACK: It is withdrawn. Next item, Mr. Clerk. We are back on the committee amendments. Is there any discussion of the committee amendments? Seeing none, Senator Withem, do you wish to close?

SENATOR WITHEM: I would waive closing.

SPEAKER BAACK: We will now proceed to vote on the committee amendments to LB 91. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. Next item, Mr. Clerk. Yes, I think what we will do, we will proceed and let Senator Lynch do the opening on LB 91. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Speaker and members, this is one of those pieces of legislation that has been around at least two years. It has now been changed to some degree but has been discussed along with other important issues I think and you all know at great length. So all I intend to do in opening is to point out to you the difference between LB 91, as it now is written, and the old LB 89. What the new bill does is eliminates all major reference, three major changes, it eliminates all reference to salary levels in determining weighted FTE, full-time employment, and provides that teachers will be counted based on degree level. A BA degree counts as one, and a Master degree counts as 1.2 full-time equivalent. This change will allow every teacher to generate funds for their district. Under LB 89, for example, there were 22,326 teachers eligible under 89. There were, unfortunately, approximately 1,200 and some teachers, the number is very close, that were not eligible because of the salary they received and the conditions in LB 89, which prevented them from receiving these funds. That is eliminated as it should be. I